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Although the world is a lot different than it was in the '60's when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was alive, we could still relate to his message. HE knew the importance of freedom and that it was worth fighting for. He also preached tolerance of both race and religion. In his famous "I have a dream..." speech, he goes on to tell of his many hopes and dreams for the future. For example, "..... the sons of slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at a table of brotherhood...; little black boys and girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers...; that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of there character..." These can still be shared by all of us. Even though some of his dreams have already been realized, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Since 9/11, our lives have all been changed. We look at things differently now and no longer take everything for granted. We are grateful to all those who helped in the terrorist attacks, - the policemen, the firemen, and the civilians. We see our soldiers going into other countries, countries we never thought much about before and we are thankful to them. We're tracking down terrorist in Afghanistan and fighting Saddam Hussein in Iraq, but we are doing it together. Blacks and Whites are fighting side by side, trusting each other with their lives, and never thinking about it, just as it should be.

We should do the same in our community. Everyone should also work together here at home- we can make a difference. There are tutoring programs, or youth athletic

groups, along with nursing homes or soup kitchens where everyone could help together. Everyone possesses different talents and we should share them with others. We could work in our parish, especially around the holidays, helping people in need. We could also get involved in projects for our soldiers away from home who are fighting for our freedom. These are a few of the ways we can work together, blacks, whites, and everyone to make the world a better place.

As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God’s children black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, we will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual “Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”